

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the above-referenced application. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims as presented in the priority application and to more clearly present the claimed invention. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments provided herein.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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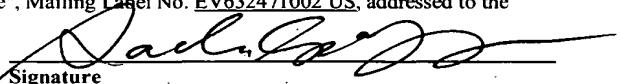
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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8 and/or 1.10*

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* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.